The Honourable President of India
Rashtrapati Bhawan
New Delhi – 110001
September 9th, 2015

Honourable Sir,

We write to you at a time when the film-making community – and the public at large – are deeply perturbed by the ongoing mishandling of affairs at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
The undersigned are all recipients of the National Film Awards over the years, bestowed upon us by the office of the President, in recognition of our films and our cinema-related work. We are writing to collectively bring to your attention the following:

1. The FTII is a premier institute, now in its 55th year. Its alumni include some of the best-known names of the Indian film industry, who have brought national and international recognition to Indian cinema.
2. In June 2015, the Ministry made a series of appointments to the FTII Society. We are dismayed to find among the appointees several people who did not satisfy the minimum criteria of either a 'significant contribution' to, or 'excellence' in, cinema.
3. We have been particularly disturbed to note that the Ministry had arbitrarily chosen Shri Gajendra Chouhan as the Chairman of the Governing Council, a position earlier held by eminent film-makers like Shri Mrinal Sen, Dr. U.R. Ananthamurthy, Shri Shyam Benegal, Shri Girish Karnad and Shri Adoor Gopalakrishnan, among a host of other eminent appointees. This appears to have been done in haste, sans due diligence or widespread consultations.
4. Even more disturbing is the inclusion of at least four political appointees, with little or no cinematic achievements of note. These include an appointee against whom a Pune Court has passed strictures, doubting her knowledge of cinema, as well as people with no other significant qualification except their affiliation with the political party in power.
5. Even as many of us have registered our protest through the media, the students of FTII have been on an indefinite strike protesting these appointments and what they rightly see as an attempt to interfere with the autonomy of the institute. In the 85 days since they commenced their strike, we have been anguished to observe the myriad ways in which the Ministry has mishandled the complex set of issues brought up by the students, the alumni, the film-making community and the wider civil society.
7. We have been especially disturbed at the victimization of the students, some of whom were subjected to midnight arrests on what prima facie seem to be grossly exaggerated charges including "torture".
8. We believe that despite the several discussions held between the Ministry and the students, as well as the various attempts at mediation, especially by eminent alumni, no solution seems to be in sight.
We therefore write to you to express our deep anguish and to urge you to intervene directly. We hope your intervention would not just facilitate an end to the current crisis, but also help address the long-term and festering problems faced by the FTII.

May we request you to:

- Declare FTII as a Centre of Excellence and an autonomous institution.
- Assume charge as the Chancellor.
- Direct the Government of India to delink FTII from the Ministry of I & B and to urgently complete all the necessary formalities to grant it autonomy
- Appoint an independent panel of eminent filmmakers to probe and resolve all the issues arising out of the current crisis as well as to facilitate the immediate resumption of classes and the ongoing diploma film projects.
- Authorize this panel to formally consider all prior reports submitted by various committees – right from the G D Khosla committee (1971) to the P K Nair committee (2011) – and to make final recommendations concerning FTII to your office.

We hope you will accord due weightage to our collective voices and share in our desire to preserve an invaluable institution like the FTII.

We are writing to you as a last resort, before considering any further concerted steps or protests.

The signatories are listed in alphabetical order in two sets, first the alumni from FTII followed by members of the film fraternity.

1.	**Abhaya Simha**, Director	Gubbachigalu, 2008
2.	**Abhik Mukhopadhyay,** Cinematographer	Patalghar, 2002; Bhalo Theko, 2003; Antaheen, 2008
3.	**Abhimanyu Dange,** Cinematographer	Kaatal, 2012
4.	**Adoor Gopalakrishnan,** Director	**Padma Shri, 1984; Dada Saheb Phalke Award, 2004; Padma Vibhushan, 2006**; 17 National Awards
5.	**Ajithkumar B.**, Editor	Of Confucious, Toy Guns and S- Spots, 1999; Atman, 2002; Naalu Pennungal, 2007
6.	**Ajit Singh Rathore,**Sound Designer	Kramasha,2009
7.	**Amit Dutta,**Director	Ksha Tra Gya,2004
8.	**Amitabh Chakraborty,** Editor, Director	Bishar Blues, 2006; Kaal Abhirati, 1990
9.	**Amlan Datta**, Director, Producer	Chronicle of an amnesiac, 2007; .in for motion, 2009; BOM, 2011
10.	**Andrea Inneta,**Director	Allah is Great,2012
11.	**Anil Mehta,** Cinematographer	Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam, 1999
12.	**Anish John,** Sound Designer	Asha Jaoar Majhe, 2014
13.	**Anirban Dasgupta**, Sound designer	Shabdo 2012; Nirbashito, 2014
14.	**Anjali Shukla,** Cinematographer	Kutty Srank,2010
15.	**Anmol Bhave,**Sound Designer	Closer,2005; Gandha, 2008
16.	**Anup Mukhopadhyay**, Audiographer	Uttara, 1999
17.	**Arghyakamal Mitra**, Editor	Abohoman, 2009
18.	**Arunaraje Patil**, Producer, Director	Mallika Sarabhai, 2000; A New Paradigm, 2002; Behind The Glass Wall, 2014
19.	**Arun Khopkar**, Director, Producer, Film Scholar	Tobacco Habits and Oral Cancer, 1976; Figures of Thought, 1990; Sanchari, 1994; Colours of Absence, 1995; Rasikapriya, 2000; Narayan Gangaram Surve, 2004
20.	**Arunima Sharma**, Director	Shyam, Raat, Seher, 2010
21.	**Ashok Viswanathan**, Director	Sunya Theke Suru, 1992; Kichhu Sanglap Kichhu Prolap, 1996
22.	**Avinash Arun,** Director, cinematographer	Killa, 2014
23.	**Batul Mukhtiar**, Director	Kaphal, 2014
24.	**Bina Paul**, Editor	Mitr, 2002; Unni, 2003
25.	**Bishwadeep Chatterjee**, Sound Designer	Madras Café, 2014
26.	**Chandita Mukherjee,** Director	Totanama, 1992; Another Way of Learning, 1995
27.	**Charushree Roy,**Director,Editor	Chasing the rainbow, 2014
28.	**Chinmoy Nath**, Audiographer	The Vehicle with the Soul of a Man, 2000
29.	**Deepu S Unni,**Cinematographer	Gaarud, 2009
30.	**Dilip Patnaik,** Director	Nilamadhaba, 2008
31.	**Dipankar Chaki**, Sound Designer	Shabdo 2012; Nirbashito, 2014
32.	**Gadadhar Puty**, Director	Pooja, Paeen, Phulati, 2007
33.	**Gautam Nair**, Sound Designer	Ek Do, 2011; Chidhiya Udh, 2013;

34. **Girish Kasaravalli,** Director	**Padma Shri, 2011**; Avashesh, 1975; Ghatashradhdha, 1977; Tabarana Kathe, 1986; Thaaye Saheba, 1997; Kraurya, 1996; Dweepa, 2002
35. **Gurvinder Singh**, Director	Anhey Ghorhey Da Daan, 2011
36. **Hansa Thapliyal,** Director	Jee Karta Tha, 1998
37. **Harikumar Madhavan Nair**, Audiography	A Pestering Jounrey, 2011
38. **Hari Nair**, Cinematographer	Sham's Vision, 1996
39. **Harshvardhan Kulkarni**,Director	Lost & found,2008
40. **Indraneel Lahiri,** Cinematograher	Aamar Katha, Story of Binodini,2015
41. **Irene Dhar Malik**, Editor	Celluloid Man, 2013
42. **Jahnu Barua**, Director	**Padma Shri, 2015**, Aparoopa, 1983; Halodhia Choraye Bhaodan Khai, 1987; Bonani, 1990; Firingoti, 1992; Xagoroloi Bohu Door, 1995; The Price of Freedom, 1998; And the River Flows, 1999; Ride on the Rainbow, 2003; Baandhon, 2012; Ajeyo, 2013
43. Jasmin Kaur, Director	Saanjh, 2004
44. **Jayakrishna Gummadi,** Cinematographer	When This Man Dies, 2007
45. **Kamal Swaroop**, Director	Phalke's Children; RangBhoomi, 2013
46. **Kaushal Oza,**Director	Vaishnav Jan Toh:2009,Afterglow:2012
47. **Kavin Jagtiani,** Cinematographer	Mandrake Mandrake, 2013
48. **K. G. George**, Director	Swapnadanam, 1975
49. **K.G. Jayan**, Cinematographer	18 Elephants- 3 Monologues, 2003
50. **K.R. Mohanan,** Director	Purushartham, 1987; Swaroopam, 1992;
51. Kirti Nakhwa,Producer	Lost & Found,2008
52. Krishnanunni ,Audiographer	Anandaram:1987, Piravi:1988, Desadanam:1996
53. **Kundan Shah**, Director	Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron, 1984
54. **Lipika Singh Darai**, Sound Recordist	Gaarud, 2009; A Tree, A Man, A Sea, 2012; Kankee O Saapo, 2013
55. **Madhu Ambat**, Cinematographer	Adi Sankaracharya, 1984; Sringaram, 2006; Adaminte Makan Abu, 2010
56. **Mahesh Thottathil**, Director	Death of a Prodigal Son, 1994
57. **Manisha Dwiwedi,**Director	Avchetan, 2003
58. **Manoj Kannoth,** Editor	Stations, 2008
59. **Manoj Nitharwal**, Director	Seek & Hide, 2015
60. **Manoj Lobo,** Cinematographer	Girni, 2005
61. **M.P. Sukumaran Nair,** Director	Sayanam, 2001; Drishtantham, 2007
62. **M.R. Rajan,** Director	Pakarnnattam, 1997; Ithihasathite Sparsham, 1999; Unarvite Kalam, 1999; Nottam, 2000; Minukku, 2006
63. **Murali,** Cinematographer	Shyam,Raat,Seher, 2010
64. **Nandan Kudhyadi**, Director, Producer	C.V. Raman, 1989; Rasayatra, 1995
65. **Nandkumar Kavil**, Director	Athmeeyam, 1996
66. **Nihar Samal,**Sound Designer	Tatvam Asi, 1997;
67. **Nilanjan Dutta,** Director	Bhanga Gara:2007
68. **Nishtha Jain,** Director	Gulaabi Gang, 2014
69. **Pankaj Purandare,** Director	Dwija, 2004
70. Pankaj Seal, Audiographer	Matir Bhnar, 1998
71. **Paresh Kamdar**, Editor	Rasayatra, 1994
72. **P.P. Govindan,**	Malbarriyum Pattunoolam, 1992
73. **Prashant Naik**, Editor	Harvest of Hunger, 2004
74. **Prateek Vats,** Director	Kal 15 August Dukaan Band Rahegi, 2010

75. **Radhakrishnan,** Sound Designer	Anayam Resulam,2013
76. **Rajat Kapoor**, Director	Tarana, 1995; Hynothesis, 1998; Raghu Romeo, 2004
77. **Rajeev Ravi**, Cinematographer	Liar's Dice, 2013
78. **Rajkumarr Rao,** Actor	Shahid, 2014
79. **Ranjan Palit,** Cinematographer, Director	Voices from Baliapal, 1989; In the Forest Hangs the Bridge, 1998; Kaya Pooch Maya Se, 2003 ; In Camera, 2009
80. **Reena Mohan**, Director, Editor	Kamlabai 1991; In The Forest Hangs a Bridge, 1998
81. **Renu Sawant,**Director	Airawat : 2011, Aranyak :2014
82. Resul Pookutty, Sound Designer	**Padma Shri, 2010**; KeralavarmPazhissiraja, 2009
83. Saeed Mirza, Director,	Mohan Joshi Hazar Ho, 1984; Naseem, 1996
84. Saikat S Ray, Editor	Hope Dies Last In War, 2007
85. Sanjiv Shah, Editor	Mirch Masala, 1985
86. Sanju Surendran, Director	Kapila, 2014
87. **Sankalp Meshram**, Editor, Director	Lokpriya, 2000; Chhutkan Ki Mahabharat, 2005; Lasya Kavya- The world of Alarmel Valli, 2012
88. **Santosh Sivan,** Cinematographer, Director, Producer	**Padma Shri, 2014**, Story of Tiblu, 1988; Mohiniyattam, 1991; Perumthachan, 1991; Halo, 1996; Kala Paani, 1996; Iruvar, 1998; Malli, 1998; The Terrorist, 1998; Dil Se, 1999; Navarasa, 2004; Prarambha, 2008; Indian Rupee, 2011
89. **Satheesh P.M.,** Sound Designer	Kumar Talkies, 1999
90. **Satya Rai Nagpaul**, Cinematographer	Anhey Ghorhey Da Daan, 2011
91. **Shabnam Sukhdev**, Director	The Last Adieu, 2013
92. **Shaji N. Karun,** Cinematographer, Director	**Padma Shri, 2011,** Thampu, 1979; Piravi, 1989; Swaham, 1995; Sham's Vision, 1997; Vanaprastham, 1999; Kutty Srank, 2009
93. **Shanker Raman,** Cinematographer, Producer	Frozen, 2007; Harud, 2012
94. **Shivendra Singh Dungarpur**, Director, Producer	Celluloid Man, 2012
95. **Sivaprasad**	Ormayude Theerangalil
96. **Sourav Sarangi,** Director	Bilal, 2009; Char: The No-Man's Island, 2012
97. **Sriram Raghavan,** Director	8 Column Affair, 1987
98. **Subash Sahoo,** Sound Engineer and Designer	Omkara, 2007; Kaminey, 2010
99. Sudhakar Reddy,Director-Cinematographer	Ek Akaash, 2003
100.**Sudheer Palsane**, Cinematographer	Koyad, 2012
101.**Sunil Sukhtankar,**	Doghi:1996,Devrai:2004
102.**Sunny Joseph,** Director	Clown and Dog, 1984
103.**Suresh Pai,** Editor	SNIP!, 2001; Page 3, 2005
104.**Susant Misra**, Director	Indradhanura Chhaai, 1994; Biswaprakash, 2000
105.**Tathagata Singha**, Director	Ekti Kaktaliyo Galpo, 2009
106.**Umesh Kulkarni,**Director	Girni:2004,Three of us :2008,Deool:2011
107.Unni Vijayan, Director	Lessons in Forgetting, 2012
108.**Venu**, Cinematographer, Director	Amma Ariyan, 1986; Miss Beatty's Children, 1992; Ponthan Mada, 1993; Daya, 1998
109.**Vinod Sukumaran**, Director	Diary of a Housewife, 2002

110. **Virendra Saini,** Cinematographer, Director	Salim Langde Pe Mat Ro, 1990; Kabhi Paas Kabhi Fail, 1999
111. **Vivek,** Sound Designer	Ksha Tra Gya, 2004
112. **V.R. Gopinath,**	Kooduthal Paal Venamenkil:1983, Unnikuttanu Joli Kitti:1990

SIGNATORIES FROM THE FILM FRATERNITY

113. **Aditya Bikram Sengupta**	Asha Jawar Majhe, 2014
114. **Anand Patwardhan**, Director	Bombay Our City, 1984
115. **Anindya Chattopadhyay**, lyricist	Antaheen, 2008
116. **Anirban Dasgupta**	Shabdo, 2012; Nirbhashito, 2014
117. **Aniruddha RoyChowdhury**, Producer	Anuranan, 2007; Antaheen, 2008
118. **Anjali Menon**, Dialogue writer	Ustad Hotel, 2012
119. **Anjan Dutt**, Music director	Ranjana Aami Aar Ashbo, 2011
120. **Anwar Rasheed**, best Popular film	Ustad Hotel, 2012
121. **Aparna Sen,**	**Padma Shri 1987,** 36, Chowringhee Lane, 1981; Paroma, 1984; Yugant, 1995; Paromitar Ek din, 2000; Mr. and Mrs. Iyer, 2001; 15, Park Avenue, 2005
122. **Asha Achy Joseph**, Producer	Diary of a Housewife, 2002
123. **Asok Dasgupta**, Cinematographer	The Trail, 1998
124. **Ashim Ahluwalia**, Director	John and Jane, 2007; Miss Lovely, 2014
125. **Ayan Bhattacharya**, audiographer	Tender is the night, 2014
126. **Buddhadeb Dasgupta**, Producer, Director	Bagh Bahadur, 1989 Charachar, 1983 Lal Darja, 1997 Mondo Meyer Upakhyan, 2002 Kaalpurush, 2008 Dooratwa, 1978 Phera, 1987 Tahader Katha, 1993 A Painter of Eloquent Silence: Ganesh Pyne, 1998 Uttara, 2000 Swapner Din, 2005
127. **Chandramala Bhattacharya**, producer	Kahini, 1996
128. **C.S.Venkiteswaran**, Critic, Director	Best Critic, 2002, 2009; Pakarnnattam, 1995
129. **Dibakar Banerjee**, Director	Khosla Ka Ghosla, 2007, Oye Lucky, Lucky Oye, 2009
130. **Dipankar Chaki**, Sound Designer	Shabdo, 2012; Nirbhashito, 2014
131. **G.P.Ramachandran**, Critic	Best Critic, 2006
132. **Gayatri Chatterjee**, Film Scholar	Awara, 1993
133. **Geetanjali Thapa**, Actress	Liars Dice, 2013
134. **Hansal Mehta**, Director	Shahid, 2013
135. **I.Shanmugadas**, Critic	1999
136. **Iram Ghufran**, Director, Editor	There is Something in the Air, 2011
137. **Joshy Mathew**, Producer	Black Forest
138. **Jayaraj, Director**, Producer	Kaliyattam, 1997 Vellapokkathil – The Deluge, 2007 Vellapokkathil – The Deluge, 2007 Desadanam, 1996 Shantham, 2000 Daivanamathil, 2005

	Ottal, 2014
139. **Kamal**	Perumazhakkalam, 2004 Karutha Pakshikal, 2006; Celluloid, 2012
140. **K.P. Kumaran**, Director	Rugmani, 1988
141. **K.R. Manoj**, Director	A Pestering Journey, 2011
142. **Kavitha Lankesh**, Director	Deeveri, 2000; Preethi, Prema, Pranya, 2004
143. **M.Manikandan**, director	Kakka Muttai, 2014
144. **Madhu Iravankara**, writer	1999, best book on cinema
145. **Malay Bhattacharya**, Director	Kahini, 1996
146. **Mani Ratnam**	**Padma Shri, 2002**; Mouna Ragam, 1986 Geethanjali, 1989 Anjali, 1990 Roja, 1992 Bombay, 1995 Kannathil Muthamittal
147. **Nagraj Manjule**, director	Fandry, 2013
148. **Nandan Saxena**, Director	Cotton for my shroud 2011; Candles in the wind, 2013, I cannot give you my Forest, 2014
149. **Neel Dutt**, music Director	Ranjana Aami Aar Ashbo, 2011
150.**Nilanjan Bhattacharya**, Producer	Under This Sun, 2005; Johar: Welcome to our World
151.**Nirmal Chander**, Director	Dreaming Tajmahal, 2012
152. **Onir**, Director	I Am, 2012
153.**Parthapratim Barman**, sound designer	Bishar Blues, 2008
154. **Pradip Krishen**, Director	In Which Annie Gives It Those ones, 1989; Electric Moon, 1992
155. **Priyanandanan**, Producer	Pulijanmam, 2006
156. **Pradipto Bhattacharya**, producer	Bakita Byaktigoto, 2013
157. **Rajeev Nath**, Director	Janani, 1998
158. **Revathi**, Actress, Producer	Thevar Magan, 1992; Mitr, My Friend, 2002; Red Building Where the Sun Sets, 2011
159. **Rakesh Sharma**, Director	Final Solution, 2006
160. **Ranjith**, Producer	Spirit, 2012 Thirakkatha, 2008 Indian Rupee, 2011
161. **Ranajit Ray**, director	Documentation of clay images of Kumartuli
162.**Rinku R. Thomas**, Director	Timbaktu, 2012
163.**Sabarni Das**, Costume Designer	Jatishwar, 2010
164. **Salim Ahmed**, Producer	Adaminte Makan Abu, 2011
165. **Sabu Cyril**, production designer	Thenmavin Kombath, 1994; Kaalapani, 1995; Om Shanti Om, 2007; Enthiran, 2010
166. **Sanjay Kak**, Director	In the Forest Hangs a Bridge, 1999
167. **Sarbajit Sen**, producer	Painting in Time, 1995
168. **Sathyan Anthikkad**	Kochu Kochu Santhoshangal, 2001
169. **Sibi Malayil**, Producer	Kanakkinavu, 1997; Aakasadoothu, 1994; Doore Doore Koodu Koottam, 1987
170. **Shajith Koyeri**, Sound Designer	Omkara, 2006
171. **Sidhartha Siva**, Director	101 Chodyangal, 2013; Ain, 2014
172. **Somnath Gupta**, Director	Aami Aadu, 2011
173. **Sreekar Prasad**, Editor	Raakh, 1989 Rag Birag, 1997 Nauka Caritramu, 1997 The Terrorist, 1998 Vaanaprastham, 2000

	Kannathil Muthamittal, 2002
	Kutty Srank; Kaminey
	Keralavarma Pazhassiraja
174. **Srijit Mukherjee**, Director, Screen play writer	Chotushkone, 2014
175. **Subhodeep Sengupta**, sound designer	Chitrasutram, 2010
176.**Suja Kulangara**	An encounter with a life living, 2004
177. **Sudipta Chakraborty**, Actress	Bariwali, 2000
178. **Sumon Mukhopadhyay**, Director	Herbert, 2005
179. **Sunil Shanbag**, Producer	Maihar Raag, 1994
180. **Supriyo Sen**, Producer	Nest, 2000; Way Back Home, 2003; Hope Dies Last in War, 2007
181.**T.V.Chandran**, Producer	Ponthan Mada, 1993; Ormakal Undayirikkanam, 1995; Mangamma, 1997; Dany, 2001; Paadam Onnu: Oru Vilapam, 2003; Aadum Koothu, 2005
182. **T.K.Rajeevkumar**, Producer	Jalamarmaram, 2000
183. **Tarun Bhartiya**, Editor	In Camera, 2010
184. **V.K.Joseph**, Critic	Best Critic, 2007
185. **Veenu Bhushan Viad**, Director	Eka Gacha, Eka Mainsha, Eka Samudra, 2012
186. **Vidya Balan**, Actor	**Padma Shri 2014**, The Dirty Picture, 2011